Commentators of TV/AIR

2201. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the new committee appointed in May has changed majority of commentators of TV and AIR who had experience ranging from 5 to 15 years and included new commentators with little or no experience at all;

(b) if so, what are the reasons thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that two experienced English commentators who have done many assignments in the country and abroad have been asked to switch over to Hindi if they want to continue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) No, Sir. However, in AIR some fresh talent has been approved for commentary on zonal sports events.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

Economy in Expenditure

2202. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the advice of the Prime Minister Government is going to apply cut in Plan and non-Plan expenditure to the tune of Rs. 20 thousand crores as per the report published in Economic Times of dated the 21st July, 1987, if so, the details of the schemes;

(b) whether it is also a fact that former Cabinet Secretary, on the advice of the Prime Minister during the year 1985-86 had also planned to cut non-plan expenditure by re-organising the Ministries and attached offices and by avoiding wasteful and duplicate expenditure, if so, the details of the schemes the economy achieved Ministry-wise and amount saved in different heads; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected.

Serving of inferior quality food to air force men and officers

2203. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the quality of food served to Air Force men and officers from the Dhaula Kuan mess and the Race Course mess, Delhi is sub-standard and inferior in quality.

(b) whether the kitchen mates of the Dhaula Kuan mess and the Race Course mess used to take away with the connivance of store-keepers, the food stuffs illegally and used to sell them in the open market;

(c) whether Government propose to investigate this matter and ensure that the quality of food served to the Air Force men and officers is good; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) There is no military establishment named 'Dhaula Kuan Mess'. No complaints regarding service of inferior quality food in Airmen's Mess at IAF Station, Race Course, New Delhi, or pilferage of food from that mess and its sale in the open market have been received.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Permission to open branches of foreign Banks in India

2204. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the policy guidelines for granting permission to open branches of foreign banks in India; and